TOP OF THE NEWS, May, 1945

From the A. L. A. Division of Libraries for Children and Young People
VOLUME 1—NUMBER 12

Division ..... *Mrs. Mary Peacock Douglas, President*

Division Ballots for Councilors

Through an error in printing, the names of nominees for A. L. A. Councilors did not appear in blocks to indicate that *three* needed to be elected. A new ballot for the election of A. L. A. Councilors for the Division is enclosed. Please cast your vote *today.*

Increased membership allows the Division two additional A. L. A. Councilors, one to be elected from each section. The third A. L. A. Councilor is being elected to replace one member from the school library group whose term has expired. The Division representatives on A. L. A. Council are equally divided between the public library and school library sections.

Annual Reports of Division Committees

The president takes this opportunity to thank members of committees for their splendid cooperation in furthering the activities of the Division. Promptness in sending reports makes it possible for reports from all committees to be printed in this issue of *Top of the News.*

Elections Committee ..... *Marguerite Kirk, Chairman*

By a vote of the membership, Martha M. Parks, Director of Division of School Libraries, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tenn., is elected vice-president and president-elect of the A. L. A. Division of Libraries for Children and Young People for 1945-46. Officers of the Division for 1945-46 are:

President—Elizabeth D. Briggs, Cleveland Public Library, Cleveland, Ohio.
Vice-President—Martha M. Parks, State Department of Education, Nashville, Tenn.
Secretary—Marguerite Kirk, Board of Education, Newark, N. J.
Treasurer—Eleanor Kidder, Seattle Public Library, Seattle, Wash.

Constitution Committee ..... *Elizabeth D. Briggs, Chairman*

To conform with the provisions of the A. L. A. Constitution and with the change of name of the School Libraries Section, three changes have been recommended and approved by the Division Board. These changes will be printed in the *A. L. A. Bulletin* in accordance with the Constitution and will be presented to the membership for vote.

Editorial Committee ..... *Alice Louise Le Fevre, Chairman*

The activities of the committee depend very largely on the number of publishing projects presented to A. L. A. Headquarters in the fields of school, children's and young people's libraries. One manuscript has been examined and evaluated, *Index to Short Stories for Children.* Suggestions for revisions of certain A. L. A. publications and comments on the other publishing proposals have been made.

Committee on Evaluation of Book Selection Aids.....*Ruth Ersted, Chairman*

The committee is working on recommendations to be made to the H. W. Wilson Company regarding desirable changes in the classification, cataloging, and format of the *Children's Catalog* and the *Standard Catalog for High School Libraries*. The suggestion has also been made to have an evaluation of various book selection tools with a description of the needs they serve best. The committee has also been asked to work with the Institution Libraries Committee in the evaluation of the proposed *List of Books in Large Type*.

A list of projects needing attention by the committee is in preparation. Suggestions from the Division members will be welcomed.

International Committee.....*Muriel Gilbert, Chairman*

The report of the C. L. A. International Relations Committee was endorsed to the A. L. A. Executive Board. Certain members cooperated in providing to an American representative in Italy sample copies of books to be considered for translation. The committee is working on short lists of books to be translated into Norwegian and a longer list of American books to be used by high school boys and girls of Puerto Rico. Close touch is being kept with the Junior Red Cross and A. L. A. Headquarters.

Magazine Publicity Committee.....*Helen O'Conor, Chairman*

In June, 1944, letters were sent to committee members requesting the names of prospective writers of articles. These names, about 30 or 35, were compiled into a list with one on suggested topics and another on possible outlets. Letters and cards were sent to all of these persons, and those who replied were encouraged to write of subjects in which they were interested. Nine articles were submitted, five placed with various periodicals, and ten more are in process of being written.

Lack of time forced a good many librarians to postpone or decline to contribute, and lack of paper led to the rejection of some articles by editors who expressed a genuine interest in the ideas presented and a hope that when paper was once more plentiful such material could be accepted. Several educational and professional magazines requested that other material be sent as it is obtained, in the hope that some of it may be suitable for their journals.

It was hoped that some magazines of a general nature could be induced to accept stories on various phases of library work with children and young people, but for the most part this phase of the work was complicated by the lack of any unusual writing ability, time on the part of those capable, and the magazines' struggle with the paper shortage.

Membership Committee.....*Eleanor Kidder, Coordinator*

Membership Committees of the sections and groups have been active in recruiting members to the extent that the Division is entitled to additional Councilors. The Division Committee is composed of the various membership chairmen together with the Division treasurer. The membership report as of December, 1944, is as follows:

Division affiliation only		226
Sections:		
American Association of School Librarians		1,042
Public Library Section		1,239
Section affiliation only	218	
Children's Library Association	737	
Young People's Reading Round Table	284	
Division total		2,507

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The first report of 1945 membership shows a total of 956 members on February 20, 1945. Additional names are coming through from A. L. A. periodically. An unofficial count indicates a paid membership of nearly 1,800 at the present time.

Through the cooperation of Mildred Batchelder stencils for membership lists have been cut at A. L. A. Headquarters at Division expense. This greatly facilitates activities related to membership.

Committee on Radio Broadcasts and Recordings.....*Harriet Leaf, Chairman*

The major project for 1944-45 has been the recording of *Gudbrand, Sleeping Beauty, Baldur, and Tales from the Volsunga Saga* (2 records) by Mrs. Gudrun Thorne-Thomsen. These have been recorded by the Victor Company which now holds the masters, subject to sales arrangements by the Division. Mrs. Thorne-Thomsen has made the contribution of a great artist for all time. The records, when available, will be copyright free and may be used on the radio, in homes, libraries, and schools. Negotiations for clearing legal releases are under way, and A. L. A. Publishing Department hopes to announce definite information about the sale of the recordings soon.

Committee on *Top of the News*.....*Nancy Hoyle, Chairman*

The issues of *Top of the News* speak for the activities of the committee. The eight-page bulletin has been sent to the members of the Division in October, January, March, and May.

Report of the Treasurer

Financial Report September 1, 1944-March 23, 1945

INCOME		
Cash balance August 31, 1944	$1,306.86	
Allotment from A. L. A.	332.65	
Contributions to recording project	350.00	
Additional orders for records	7.00	
Miscellaneous	10.00	
*Allotment from A. L. A.	458.02	
Total income		$2,464.53
DISBURSEMENTS		
Allotments to:		
Public Library Section	$ 94.81	
American Association of School Librarians	54.89	
Top of the News	276.79	
To Mrs. Thorne-Thomsen for recordings	385.00	
To RCA Victor for recordings	450.00	
For officers' expenses	57.75	
For outside memberships	60.00	
For stenographic work for membership list	30.00	
For reprints	15.50	
Total disbursements		1,424.74
Balance on hand		$1,039.79

*Allotments of about 50% of this amount to be made to sections when membership count is available.

Newbery-Caldecott Awards

The Newbery-Caldecott Awards will be announced this year at a luncheon in the Wedgwood Room of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, on June 9 at 1 P. M. Check or money order must be sent with reservation before June 1 to Ruth Giles, New York Public Library, Room 105. Price

of luncheon, $3 per person, including gratuities. Arrangements are now under way to broadcast interviews with the award winners.

American Association of School Librarians.....*Irene Hayner, Chairman*

With the reorganization this year of the School Libraries Section into the American Association of School Libraries, new committees were formed and additional members were appointed to existing committees.

(1) Through the A. L. A. *Booklist* Committee progress has been made in developing means of sharing with the Young People's Reading Round Table responsibility for evaluation of books for young people.

(2) Increasing interest in other countries led to appointment of a committee to develop a Newsletter to English school libraries. Soon, however, it became evident that its scope should be broadened to include matters of interest to other countries as well.

(3) Rapidly increasing use of audio-visual aids in schools made necessary a re-examination of the responsibility of school librarians toward this type of material and its use in schools.

(4) An Adult Education Committee was added to plan for service men and women who return to take high school courses after the war.

(5) Recruitment of school librarians too appeared to be a problem calling for fresh consideration and long-time planning. As members of a professional organization believing thoroughly in the value of school library service, we cannot afford limitation of that service due to lack of people interested in carrying it on. The work of our Professional Education Committee, of course, fits directly into the work of this group.

(6) Urgent need has long been felt for a collection of floor plans designed for different types of school libraries. If there is a large scale school building program after the war, we should have ready suggestions for practical library facilities, which include adequate space for effective use and efficient storage of audio-visual materials.

Already there are requests for additional projects and for leadership in building a stronger professional organization. Next year will probably see the formation of committees to work out some of these ideas. What we shall need is people willing to take time out of an already busy life to work on professional problems, and even more, people willing to assume leadership and responsibility for getting things done.

The following reports of committee activities are based upon letters of committee chairmen to the section chairman, and do not constitute a complete record of their accomplishments. Full reports will be given at the meeting of the Executive Board and committee chairmen to be held in Chicago June 19-20.

Adult Education Committee.....*Agnes Horsfall, Chairman*

The committee is trying to discover what returning service men and women need and to find out what some of the larger city school systems are planning to do for them. This information will be reported to school librarians together with brief lists of aids for service men and women in the high school group.

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A. L. A. Booklist Committee.....*Marjorie Van Deusen, Chairman*

A list of books for young people was prepared for the March 1 issue of the A. L. A. *Booklist*. The committee is now considering the desirability of having a joint committee with the Young People's Reading Round Table to prepare periodical lists of books for young people rather than having the two groups prepare alternate lists. No decision has yet been made.

Audio-Visual Aids Committee.....*Ruth Giles, Chairman*

This committee was late in getting started and is still in the throes of organizing possible activities. The greatest need seems to be for investigation of practices in the fields of budgeting, filing, and cataloging.

International Newsletter Committee.....*Marion Horton, Chairman*

Lists of books interpreting America to young people of other countries are being prepared, one for little children and one for those somewhat older. The group is also looking for a suitable name for its publication. (Send suggestions to the chairman!)

Magazine Evaluation Committee.....*Laura Martin, Chairman*

Notes on new magazines for young people have been sent to the editor of the page on School and Children's Libraries of the *Wilson Library Bulletin.*

Membership Committee.....*Elizabeth Thomas, Chairman*

Letters were sent to all school librarians not members of the A. A. S. L. whose names appeared in the lists of appointments in this year's numbers of *Library Journal.* Letters were also sent to state and city school library supervisors asking them to call to the attention of members of their groups the importance of belonging to their national professional organization. Notes urging membership were sent to *Wilson Library Bulletin* for inclusion in the January, 1945, issue.

Nominating Committee.....*Sarah Jones, Chairman*

Nominations for section offices were made in accordance with the new constitution of the A. A. S. L. as follows:

Chairman—Miriam B. Snow.
Vice-Chairman—Rheta A. Clark.
Secretary—Winifred B. Linderman.
Treasurer—Edna V. Ballard, Lillian Davis.
Director, 1945-46—Marjorie Van Deusen.
Director, 1945-47—Genevieve J. Geiger.
Director, 1945-48—Frances Henne, Mrs. Margaret Walraven.

Nominations for division offices submitted by the A. A. S. L. are:

Vice-President—Virginia McJenkin, Martha M. Parks.
Director—Sue Hefley, Mrs. Doris Doyle Newcomb.
A. L. A. Council—Margaret R. Greer, C. Irene Hayner.

Committee on Planning School Library Quarters.....*Sue Hefley, Chairman*

Members of the group are investigating means of collecting photographs, plans, and specifications for school library equipment and quarters. They would be glad to know of any available pictures, blue prints, floor plans, or specifications of new libraries or equipment which might be reproduced in a planning portfolio. As the Library Service Division of the U. S. Office of Education is also interested in planning for school libraries, our committee hopes to cooperate with Miss Beust on this project.

Professional Education Committee.....*Helen Butler, Chairman*

Time has been spent in reviewing discussions of the problem and examining studies already made in the field. The committee is preparing recommendations for basic studies of practical needs of school librarians, present available training school curricula, and comparative state certification requirements.

Reading for Background Committee.....*Margaret Rufsvold, Chairman*

The chairman has conferred with the H. W. Wilson Company on possible additions to the *Reading for Background Series* of reading lists. Effort has also been made to discover subject fields in which such lists are needed, and consideration is being given to suggestions already received.

Recruiting Committee.....*Lucile Viehe, Chairman*

The committee has outlined a long-range plan for improving the status of school librarians as well as for presenting the attractions of school library work as a profession to high school and college students and returning service women. They are now working on concrete suggestions for carrying out the plan.

Statistics Committee.....*Edna Gilogly, Chairman*

The chairman has conferred with persons at A. L. A. Headquarters on what school library statistics seem to be needed and what use is made of them. Apparently school librarians make much less use of their statistics than do public librarians. Effort is being made to coordinate the work of this committee with work done in the U. S. Office of Education.

Public Library Section: Children's Library Association

Mrs. Frances Clarke Sayers, Chairman

The chairman of the Children's Library Association takes the liberty of summarizing the activities of the Association, for the most part, out of her knowledge of work in progress rather than direct reports from the committee chairmen.

Professional Training Committee.....*Irene Smith, Chairman*

At least three people have been sent by this committee into the women's colleges of various sections of the country to present children's librarianship as a profession to college groups: Virginia Chase, for colleges in the East, Leone Garvy to Mills College in California, and Elizabeth Nesbitt to colleges in the Middle Eastern district.

International Committee.....*Ruth Giles, Chairman*

The activities of this committee have been extremely time-consuming, because they included interviews with publishers, state department officials, and welfare organizations. The International Committee is attempting to raise funds for the purpose of sending a person or persons to Europe to act as a liaison person between existing book collections, existing personnel among European librarians, existing publishers of children's books, with the purpose of setting up reading centers and directing American aid where it would be most useful. The early plan of translating certain books into foreign languages was found to be impolitic, upon consultation with foreign publishers in this country. The translations, to be most effective, must be made in the countries we hope to serve, rather than in the United

States. The program is clear, the need apparent, and there have been requests from France and other countries. There is, as yet, no way of financing the plan.

This committee, through its chairman, has been on the advisory board of the Treasure Chest plan of the Women's Council for Postwar Europe and has been consulted by many organizations working with children's books. Ruth Giles is also preparing an article for the *A. L. A. Bulletin,* in cooperation with Muriel Gilbert, Chairman of the International Committee of the Division.

Book Evaluation Committee.....*Julia Sauer, Chairman*

Book Production Committee.....*Helen Dean Fish, Chairman*

These committees have worked closely together. The Book Production Committee report is as follows: "The Book Production Committee has carried on its regular annual activity—the sponsoring of Travelling State Library Exhibits of children's books by arranging for publishers to contribute free review copies of new titles to State commissions which promise to circulate such exhibits through libraries in the state. Fourteen states cooperated with the plan this year, and this spring Virginia has come back into the fold. Grateful reports of successful operation of the exhibits have been received from five of the fourteen states: Delaware, Vermont, New Hampshire, Louisiana, and North Carolina. Iowa State Travelling Library reports that it must discontinue the exhibits for the duration of the war.

"A special 1944-45 project of the Committee was the printing in library mediums of a list, made by the Book Evaluation Committee, of 100 out-of-print children's books with the aim of securing orders from librarians for these books that might make possible their reprinting in wartime conditions. This project was fully reported on page 5 of the March, 1945, issue of *Top of the News.*"

Films Committee.....*Margaret Clark, Chairman*

This committee is continuing to compile an annotated list of recommended films for children.

Publicity Committee.....*Evelyn Sickels, Chairman*

This committee has acted as liaison officer between committees for *Top of the News* and is preparing a pamphlet on Children's librarianship, addressed to the administrators of libraries, stressing the necessity of gaining financial recognition for the work.

Radio Committee.....*Maria Cimino, Chairman*

This committee has been experimenting in producing story hour programs carefully integrated with music. A series of four of these programs has been worked out with Station WNYC in New York, the City station. A fuller report of this will be made as soon as the series is completed.

Membership Committee.....*Irene Branham, Chairman*

This committee has continued the excellent work of the previous year, working through the same thirteen regional chairmen with state and city committees. Effort and money were invested in a dodger using a photograph of children in France, recently bombed from their homes, whose faces showed what books could mean to them. This dodger was used also by the Professional Training Committee.

Public Library Section: Young People's Reading Round Table

Frances Grim, Chairman

Book Selection Committee.....*Margaret Ward, Chairman*

The Book Selection Committee was asked this year to compile two lists of Books for Young People instead of the customary one. The first list, containing twenty-five titles, appeared in the October 15 issue of the *Booklist;* the second is scheduled to appear in June. Committee members, chosen to represent widely separated areas in the United States, were in close agreement as to titles they had found of particular interest to young people in the fall of 1944. That American youth is awake to the events of the day is indicated by the fact that twelve of the titles selected were about the war. That today's young people have, also, varied interests in the past and the future is shown by the fact that the remaining thirteen titles dealt with subjects ranging from American history and biography to the future of aviation and the problems of minority groups.

Standing Committee 1945.....*Isabel Nichol, Chairman*

Under the Chairmanship of Mary J. Cain, a survey has been made of the place in the library school curricula of all aspects of library work with young people (approximately 15 to 20 years of age). Questionnaires were sent to the thirty-four accredited library schools in the United States and Canada. The initial analysis of replies will serve as the basis for still further study by the committee. The committee is also at work on the final revision and editing of *Rules and Procedures* as well as the proposed *Constitution* of the Round Table, both of which will shortly be presented to the membership for approval.

Membership Committee.....*Myrtle L. Graves, Chairman*

The Membership Committee of the Y. P. R. R. T. was late in getting started this year, but now consists of the following:

Elizabeth Brown—Toledo, Ohio.
Harriet B. Golay—Indianapolis, Indiana.
Eleanor Herrman—St. Paul, Minnesota.
Lillian Moore—Baltimore, Maryland.
Ellen Perry—Greenville, South Carolina.
Mildred Schulze—Cincinnati, Ohio.
Beatrice Schein—Newark, New Jersey.
Gladys Shepley—Windsor, Ontario, Canada.
Margaret Ward—Denver, Colorado.

On March 9 each committee member was sent the names of a few members in neighboring cities who would probably be responsible for membership in their libraries. This covered twenty-two states. Copies of the Section notice, "Let's All Pull Together," were sent to each member for distribution. Final reports of the results are not yet available.

NANCY HOYLE, *Editor*
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
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